



# HEAD INJURIES

Head Injuries  
Scalp lacerations  
Skull fractures  
Brain injuries  
Complications of head injuries

# Scalp Lacerations

- Scalp has a rich blood supply.
- There may be more serious, deeper injuries.
- Fold skin flaps back down onto scalp.
- Control bleeding by direct pressure.



# Skull Fracture

- Indicates significant force
- Signs
  - Obvious deformity
  - Visible crack in the skull
  - Raccoon eyes
  - Battle's sign
  - NECK INJURY!!



# Types of Head Injuries

- OPEN

- CLOSED



# Signs and Symptoms

● (1 of 3)

- Cuts, bruises & swelling to scalp
- Soft areas or depression upon palpation
- Visible skull fractures or deformities
- “Black eyes” / bruising behind ear.
- Clear or pink fluid leakage

# Signs and Symptoms

● (2 of 3)

- Unequal pupils
- Loss of sensation and/or motor function
- Period of unconsciousness
- Amnesia
- Seizures

# Signs and Symptoms

● (3 of 3)

- Numbness or tingling in the extremities
- Irregular respirations
- Dizziness
- Visual complaints
- Combative or abnormal behavior
- Nausea or vomiting

# Level of Consciousness

- Change in level of consciousness is the single most important observation.
- Use the AVPU scale
- Reassess
  - Every 15 minutes if patient is stable.
  - Every 5 minutes if patient is unstable.

# Level of Consciousness

- **A** Alert
- **V** Responsive to Verbal stimulus
- **P** Responsive to Pain
- **U** Unresponsive

# Emergency Medical Care

- Establish an adequate airway, (head tilt / chin lift)
- Control bleeding and provide adequate circulation.
- Assess the patient's baseline level of consciousness.
- Begin fluid resuscitation, Maintain radial pulse



QUESTIONS?